

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

FRB-03 PA-01 PRS-01 /106 W

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R 181103Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3080

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ECON, ENRG, CE

SUBJ: CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION ENGAGES EXPLORATION  
CONSULTANT FIRM

REF: COLOMBO 0895

1. JULY 17 LOCAL PAPERS CARRIED CAREFULLY WORDED  
STATEMENT BY CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION (CPC)  
CHAIRMAN THAT "TENDER TO FUNCTION AS CONSULTANT FOR OFF-SHORE  
OIL DRILLING HAS BEEN AWARDED TO PEXAMIN PACIFIC INC., A GROUP  
OF COMPANIES OPERATING IN UNITED STATES, EUROPE, AND  
PACIFIC REGION". STATEMENT LATER SAYS "DIRECTORS AND PROFESSIONAL  
STAFF OF PEXAMIN GROUP, WHO ARE NATIONALS OF EIGHT COUNTRIES,  
CONTROL EQUITY OF COMPANY". IT CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT  
DR. THOMAS CANTWELL, PRESIDENT OF PEXAMIN, WILL  
LEAD CONSULTANT TEAM. NO HEADQUARTERS OR  
OTHER NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION WERE GIVEN.

2. CPC VICE CHAIRMAN WITHANE TELLS US PEXAMIN  
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IS "AMERICAN FIRM" HEADQUARTERED IN HOUSTON

AND THAT CANTWELL IS AMERICAN EXPLORATION EXPERT.  
1973 HOUSTON TELEPHONE DIRECTORY GIVES  
"PEXAMIN INC., 3914 FAIRHILL" CLASSIFIED UNDER  
OIL EXPLORATION, ETC.

3. WITHANE CONFIRMED IMPRESSION GIVEN IN PRESS  
STATEMENT THAT CONSULTANCY CONTRACT IS IN RESPONSE  
TO CALL FOR BIDS CIRCULATED IN JUNE 1975  
SEPARATE FROM FEBRUARY 26 TENDER FOR OFF-SHORE  
DRILLING SERVICES (REFTEL). IN BOTH CASES, CPC  
DID NOT CIRCULATE OR PUBLICIZE BID CALLS LOCALLY.  
DRILLING SERVICE BIDS ARE STILL UNDER ACTIVE  
CONSIDERATION AND U.S.FIRM, SUN MARINE, INC.,  
HAS GOOD CHANCE. THEIR REPRESENTATIVES HAVE  
VISITED CPC SEVERAL TIMES IN RECENT WEEKS.

4. IN RECENT MONTHS CABINET-LEVEL STATEMENTS  
HAVE STOPPED PRAISING WONDEROUS RICHES OIL DISCOVERY  
SOON TO BRING. NOR HAVE GSL OR PRESS RECENTLY  
MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY MUCH PUBLICIZED SOVIET  
EXPLORATION WORK. CPC OFFICIALS EARLIER THIS  
YEAR TOLD EMBASSY THAT IT WAS NEVER INTENDED  
THAT SOVIET EFFORT WOULD INCLUDE OFF-SHORE  
DRILLING BECAUSE SOVIET OFF-SHORE CAPABILITY  
AND EQUIPMENT NOT AVAILABLE.

5. COMMENT: GSL AND CPC ARE MAKING POLITICALLY  
SENSITIVE TRANSITION FROM SOVIET SEISMIC  
AND ON-SHORE EXPLORATION TO WESTERN (POSSIBLY  
AMERICAN) OFF-SHORE TECHNOLOGY. WORDING OF  
PEXAMIN ANNOUNCEMENT MAKES CLEAR THAT WESTERN AND  
CERTAINLY AMERICAN CONNECTIONS OF NEW EXPLORATION  
CONTRACTORS WILL BE PLAYED DOWN TO REDUCE VULNERABILITY  
TO LEFTIST CRITICISM.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WE REQUEST CHECK O OPEYUMIN#  
TO ANSWER FOLLOWING: (A) IS IT AN AMERICAN OR  
AMERICAN-CONTROLLED FIRM? (B) IT IS REPUTABLE?  
(C) WHERE ELSE  
DOES IT OPERATE? ESPECIALLY, DOES  
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IT WORK IN OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES SUCH AS BURMA?  
(D) IS CANTWELL RECOGNIZED OIL EXPLORATION EXPERT?  
(E) ANY OTHER SORT BACKGROUND INFORMATION.  
VAN HOLLEN

NOTE BY OCT: #TEXT AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, CONSULTANTS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975COLOMB02260  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750249-0401  
**From:** COLOMBO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750739/aaaabivu.tel  
**Line Count:** 112  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 COLOMBO 0895  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION ENGAGES EXPLORATION CONSULTANT FIRM  
**TAGS:** ECON, ENRG, CE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006